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Mills County

Commissioners Court Special Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2022– 9:00 am

This Special session of the Mills County Commissioners Court opened in due form of law at 9:00 am in the Mills County Commissioners' Courtroom located at 1011 4th Street, Goldthwaite, Texas 76844.

Present in the Courtroom: County Judge Jett Johnson, Commissioners Mike Wright, Dale Partin and Jason Williams. Also present for in the courtroom: Treasurer Summer Campbell, County Clerk – Sonya Scott and Sheriff Clint Hammond. Present via Zoom: Commissioner Jed Garren, Jacki Brooks, The Goldthwaite Eagle. See sign-in sheet for audience attendance.

The meeting is available to the public to view on the Mills County YouTube channel.

Agenda: -

1. Judge Jett Johnson called the meeting to order noting the presence of a quorum. Judge Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance with Commissioner Williams providing the opening prayer.
2. Audience with Individuals- Cody Stegomoller
3. Review and Act on approving Accounts payable - Motion to approve accounts payables by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Judge Johnson. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0
4. Consider and Act on line-item transfers - Motion to approve line-item budget transfers by Judge Johnson seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried 5-0
5. Consider and Act on Burn Ban – Cody Stegomoller addressed the court that after studying the statute regarding burn bans in his opinion the county conditions are not in-line to be under a burn ban. The County does not have rain in the near forecast and temperatures are going to be near 100 degrees in the next two weeks; however, the county continues to have high humidity. Due to the lack of fuel the conditions in the event of a fire are slow burning if they do happen now. Mr. Stegomoller also reported the our surrounding counties: Comanche, Brown, and Hamilton have higher risk for fires and do not have active burn bans in place. There are no counties close to Mills that have a burn ban in place at this time. By statute burn bans were designed to be temporary. Counties are trying to make them permanent and the lifting of the ban temporary. Burn Bans limit business and farming. Asking the Court to consider other things and give some facts as to why a burn ban is needed. Please re-read the statutes.

Judge Johnson apologized that the burn ban was confusing on the last court action. After Research, it was determined that the Court did not vote on the burn ban at the last meeting. Due to that fact, the burn ban is NOT in place. Commissioner Wright noted that he believes the burn ban should be in place. Commissioner Williams stated that the county is green and constituents in his precinct want to burn. Commissioner Partin went to look at the burn on 315. He did not

think that there is enough fuel source to be concerned about a fire. Commissioner Partin noted that the Court needs to consider new guidelines for setting a burn ban by consulting the forestry service and all of our local fire chiefs. Commissioner Garren noted that the fire chiefs that he has visited with are in favor of leaving the ban off until deer season starts. October 24 is a regularly scheduled meeting and before deer season starts. Commissioner Garren recommends leaving the burn ban off and reassessing at the October 24, 2022 meeting. Judge Johnson agrees that inclusion of the fire chiefs is a good idea for future burn bans. Sheriff Hammonds noted the Forrest Service is a valuable resource for fire/burn recommendations.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to leave the burn ban off. Second by Commissioner Partin. Motion carried 3-2 with Judge Johnson and Commissioner Wright voting against.

6. Adjournment: Motion by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Judge Johnson. Carried by 5-0.


Sonya Scott, County Clerk

September 20, 2022

